

Serial No. 10/787,246
Reply dated August 15, 2005
Response to Office Action dated April 13, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A fuel filter comprising a housing with at least one filter element arranged therein so as to separate an unfiltered side from a clean side; said housing having an inlet opening into the unfiltered side and an outlet opening from the clean side, said at least one filter element being situated in the housing in a flow path between the unfiltered side and the clean side, wherein first and second devices for separating and draining of water are provided, respectively, on the unfiltered side and on the clean side of the filter, the fuel filter further including an enclosure situated on the clean side for collecting water, wherein the enclosure has an opening that opens into a channel leading to the exterior of the housing.

2. (original) A fuel filter according to claim 1, wherein each separating and draining device has a collecting chamber with a sealable outlet opening.

3. (original) A fuel filter according to claim 1, wherein the outlet opening is sealed by a gasket.

4. (original) A fuel filter according to claim 3, wherein the gasket is a sealing ring which is held by a water drain plug between two contacting surfaces.

5. (original) A fuel filter according to claim 2, wherein the sealable outlet opening is provided at a water drain plug.

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6. (original) A fuel filter according to claim 5, wherein the water drain plug has a first channel arranged radially outside of a central axis of the water drain plug, said first channel opening into a first collecting chamber, and a second channel arranged coaxially with the central axis of the water drain plug, said second channel opening into a second collecting chamber.

7. (original) A fuel filter according to claim 6, wherein the second channel is sealed by a gasket connected to the housing.

8. (original) A fuel filter according to claim 7, wherein the gasket is constructed as a sealing ring held on a pin, and the pin extends into said second channel.

9. (original) A fuel filter according to claim 7, wherein the gasket is attached to a plunger and is pressed by a spring against an end opening of said second channel.

10. (original) A fuel filter according to claim 1, wherein an outlet opening is connected to a tube which extends through a water drain plug.

11. (original) A fuel filter according to claim 2, wherein the outlet opening is arranged at the bottom of a pot, and the collecting chamber is formed in the pot.

12. (original) A fuel filter according to claim 2, wherein the outlet opening is sealed by a flat gasket which is held by a spring against a sealing seat.

13. (original) A fuel filter according to claim 12, wherein the separating and draining device has an actuator that acts against the force of said spring.

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14. (original) A fuel filter according to claim 13, wherein the actuator is constructed as a push rod.

15. (original) A fuel filter according to claim 1, wherein the fuel filter comprises a plurality of filter elements arranged successively in a direction of flow, and wherein a device for draining out water is provided on the unfiltered side and on the clean side of at least two filter elements.